

Washington State **EMERGENCY NEWS**/Mitigation & Preparedness



Washington
Military
Department
**Emergency
Management
Division**

Camp Murray,
Washington

www.emd.wa.gov

For immediate release:

Aug. 22, 2006

Contact: Rob Harper, Public Information Officer, (253) 512-7005

September is National Preparedness and NOAA Weather Radio Awareness Month; Earthquake, tsunami drill Sept. 13

Camp Murray, Wash. – Washington State will observe National Preparedness Month, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio Awareness Month, and 911 Day in September, highlighted by a statewide earthquake and tsunami drill Sept. 13.

Preparedness month encourages government agencies, businesses, schools and citizens to review emergency response plans and 911 procedures as well as to participate in a statewide earthquake and tsunami drill. The September observance also highlights the use of NOAA weather radios for emergency information to greatly reduce the loss of life and property from all hazards.

The statewide earthquake and tsunami drill will occur Sept. 13 between 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. The drill will start with a test tsunami warning message from NOAA's Palmer, Alaska, Center coupled with a statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS) message over radio and television stations. The alert message will initiate tsunami loudspeaker warnings to coastal residents and will instruct inland residents to "drop, cover, and hold" for personal earthquake protection in their residences, schools and workplaces.

As part of the Preparedness Month observance, emergency preparedness information packets will be sent to school districts, emergency management agencies, hospitals and Indian nations. The packet materials include posters about Washington's earthquake and tsunami hazards, information about NOAA weather radios, and guides for the proper use of the Enhanced 9-1-1 system.

For further assistance with disaster planning and Preparedness Month materials, contact Washington Emergency Management Division at 253-512-7000 or 1-800-562-6108. Preparedness Month Campaign materials also are available to download from the EMD website at www.emd.wa.gov

For more information about National Preparedness Month, please contact Rosanne Garrand, EMD public education program coordinator, (253) 512-7048, or Penelope Cassidy, E911 program public information officer, (253) 512-7016.

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